

Message Text

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12

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUANDA 0378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT POLI AO

SUBJECT: VISITING CABINET OFFICER'S VIEWS ON ANGOLA

1. VISITING MIN INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION (SUCCESSOR TO OVERSEAS MINISTER) ALMEIDA SANTOS HELD SEVERAL PRESS CONFERENCES DURING 3-DAY VISIT TO ANGOLA. LONGEST WAS 2 HOUR SESSION PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE NIGHT OF MAY 26 FOR LONDON TO JOIN PAIGC NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH HE REPEATEDLY SAID HE WAS "EXHAUSTED" AT END OF SIX DAYS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, MINISTER REMAINED CALM, COLLECTED AND ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS WITH REFRESHING DIRECTNESS. GAVE IMPRESSION OF MAN OF INTELLIGENCE, GOOD WILL, AND INTEGRITY. MAIN POINTS OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE DEALING WITH ANGOLA'S FUTURE FOLLOW.

2. NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL. UNLIKE MOZAMBIQUE WHERE TASK EASY BECAUSE CONSENSUS REACHED QUICKLY, HE FACES NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN ANGOLA TO CHOOSE FROM AMONG SOME 40 NAMES PROPOSED TO HIM. EVERY ONE SEEMS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO AT LEAST A SIZABLE MINORITY. HE WILL SEEK TO "DISPLEASE LEAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE." AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER HE MADE SPECIFIC MENTION OF SIMOES ABREU AND DIOGENES BOAVIDA AS CANDIDATES WHOSE NAMES KEPT RECURRING. (LATTER IS PROMINENT BLACK LAWYER WHO ANGERED SOME WHITES LAST WEEK BY CALLING FOR END TO "WHITE ARROGANCE." UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOR

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CIRCULATING THAT ALMEIDA SANTOS MAY NAME TROIKA: BLACK, WHITE

AND MESTIZO.)

3. ANGOLA'S ECONOMY. DIRECTION OF ECONOMY WILL BE CENTERED IN ANGOLA. STATE-OWNED, MIXED AND CONCESSIONARY COMPANIES MUST MOVE HEADQUARTERS TO ANGOLA; STATUS OF "GREATS" (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING CABINDA-BULF) WILL BE REVIEWED. ANGOLA WILL HAVE INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY TO SEEK FOREIGN CAPITAL ASSISTANCE/INVESTMENT. PROBLEMS MUST BE TACKLED DELIBERATELY TO AVOID UPSETTING ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM, HOWEVER.

4. SELF-DETERMINATION/INDEPENDENCE. PERSONALLY IN FAVOR OF ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE. IF MAJORITY CHOOSES INDEPENDENCE, SO BE IT. TERMS OF PLEBISCITE (ABOUT A YEAR HENCE) TO BE ELABORATED HERE, NOT IN LISBON.

5. LABOR DEMANDS. WORKERS MUST SOMEHOW BE MADE TO REALIZE EXAGGERATED WAGE DEMANDS WILL ONLY LEAD TO INFLATIONARY SPIRAL WITH RESULTING CHAOS, WHICH WOULD DESTROY REVOLUTION. DON'T BLAME NEW GOVERNMENT FOR ILLS IT INHERITED FROM OLD REGIME.

6. LAND REDISTRIBUTION. THIS MUST BE EARLY MATTER FOR NEW ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT (NOT LISBON) TO SOLVE.

7. PRESS RESPONSIBILITY. DUTY OF PRESS IS TO BE INFORMATIVE AND FORMATIVE - I.E., TO EDUCATE PEOPLE IN DEMOCRACY.
BRIGGS

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